

Education Panelists

David Joost joined the Houston Community College System as its Director of Community and Adult Education in October of the year 2000. He was previously employed as the Director of Resource Development and Adult Education at Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas.

He is a native Texan, born and schooled in La Grange, Texas. He graduated from Texas A & M University with a Bachelor of Science and Master's degree in Education. He holds an Education Administrator's Certificate for the University of Houston – Victoria and is currently pursuing doctoral studies at the University of Houston Central Campus. He resides in Wharton, Texas with his wife Sheryl, son Gerard, and daughter Megan.

Starting out as a teacher in Columbus High School in Columbus, Texas, David has been involved in education for over twenty years and has been involved in adult education and literacy for more than twelve of those years. He has served as the President of the Texas Council for Adult Education Cooperative Directors and currently acts as Legislative Committee Chairman of that organization. David is one of Texas' recognized leaders in the adult and literacy movement and is a member of the State Leadership Consortium for Recruitment and Retention of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. He also currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Literacy Advance of Houston.

When students come to our classes, they bring with them a million reasons to leave. It is our job to give them at least one reason to stay.

David Joost

Jennifer Alexander is a former high school ESL and French teacher, with nearly twenty years of experience in the field of second language education. Currently, she works for Houston Independent School District as a central office administrator in the Multilingual Department. She has co-authored several grants to support second language programs. Her specialty is program development/implementation of secondary language support programs and teacher training on best practice instructional delivery for English Language Learners. She holds an M.Ed. in Second Language Education from the University of Houston.

David Johnston has been involved in education for 19 years. He is currently the College Advisor at Lee High School as well as conducting Saturday workshop for HISD's immigrant students on the college process. He helped organize the grassroots effort in Houston for House Bill 1403, which allowed certain undocumented immigrants in-state tuition. He co-founded the Coalition of Higher Education for Immigrants Students and now co-sponsors Jovenes Inmigrantes por un Futuro Mejor (Young Immigrants for a Better Future). Recently his work with immigrant students has been profiled in the Journal of Higher Education, Channel 2, and Rumbo.

Georgie Collis has been involved in international education and development since 1985. Recent projects included: ground up development of with workplace literacy and numeracy education in the gold fields of South Africa, civic education and human rights advocacy in Angola, elementary, middle school educational developmental efforts in most of West and Sub-Saharan Africa, introduction of the Schlumberger Excellence in Educational Development (SEED) program at School Net Africa Conference 2001 in Cape Town, South Africa. Current challenges at Bilingual Education Institute (BEI) include workplace literacy curriculum development, capacity building grant writing, 21st Century after school programming, and refugee program development. She holds a BPHE, BA (Psych) and B.Ed from Queen's University and a Training and Development Diploma from South Africa. Publications include: Tenho Direitos (World Learning, USAID); Pre-ABE, ABE Level 3 (in-house Anglo Gold); English Vocabulary for Industrial Workers (pilot – program with BEI and HACSC).